Felling of trees by Commercial Plantation lease holders in Haridwar

917. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in Haridwar, Commercial Plantation lease holders are cutting trees and smuggling them out under the guise of removing waste wood and roots from the leased lands; and

(b) if so, the action taken to protect the forest cover on banks of Ganga in Haridwar to check environmental disaster?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Forest area in Chhattisgarh

†918. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made an estimation of the existing forest area of Chhattisgarh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of increase or decrease of area in the present estimate as compared to the previous one; and

(d) the measures being taken to increase the forest area of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The forest cover in Chhattisgarh as per assessment by Forest Survey of India in 2001 is 56,448 sq. kms.

(c) The forest cover in Chhattisgarh as per assessment by Forest Survey of India in 1999 was 56,693 sq. kms.

(d) The Ministry of Environment and Forests is implementing the National Afforestation Programme (NAP) Scheme, which aims at decentralized and participatory development of forests, through a two-tier

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

set up of Forest Development Agency (FDA) at the forest division level, and Joint Forest Management Committee (JFMC) at the village level. 26 FDA projects have been approved under NAP scheme at a total cost of Rs. 66.64 crores in Chhattisgarh State with the total project area of 37,489 hectare through 913 JFMCs.

Approval of schemes sent by Chhattisgarh

†919. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Department of Water Resouces of Chhattisgarh has sent forest matters or schemes for the first phase sanction by Government of India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the action taken upto now in this direction and the time by when these are likely to be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Department of Water Resources of Chhattisgarh has submitted eighteen proposals for diversion of forest land under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 to the Central Government during last three years. Till date, in-principle approval has been given in respect of six proposals by the Ministry, one proposal is under examination in the Ministry and additional information in respect of remaining eleven proposals has been sought from the State Government. The status of the proposals approved in-principle, and those yet to be approved by the Ministry is given in the Statement.

Statement

Approval of Schemes sent by Chhattisgarh

Sl. No.	Name of the Proposal	Area (in ha.)	Status
1	2	3	4
1.	Bakori Tank Project	105.92	In-principle approval granted on 1.7.2004.
2.	Belora Tank Project	90.67	In-principle approval granted on 21.5.2004.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.